

in the westerly quadrants encountered northerly gales of from 50 to 75 miles an hour, as shown by the storm log of the British S. S. *Stanmore*, which is as follows: "Gale began on the 31st. Lowest barometer, 28.84 inches at 7 a. m. on the 31st; position, $49^{\circ} 54' N.$, $30^{\circ} 07' W.$ End of gale 4 p. m. on the 31st. Highest force of wind, 11. Shifts of wind near time of lowest barometer reading, SE.-NW." On the 31st strong northwest gales, accompanied by snow, were also reported from a limited area immediately south of Halifax, Nova Scotia. The storm

log of the British S. S. *Cretic* is as follows: "Gale began on the 31st. Lowest barometer, 28.88 inches at 4 a. m. on the 31st; position, $41^{\circ} 57' N.$, $61^{\circ} 25' W.$ End of gale on the 31st. Highest force of wind, 11; shifts, SE.-NW."

Fog was comparatively rare during the month, as it was reported on only three days on the Banks of Newfoundland and in the waters adjacent to the American coast north of the 40th parallel, while over the middle and eastern section of the steamer lanes it was even less frequent.

NOTES ON WEATHER IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD.

British Isles.—"An abnormally cold November gave place to a period in which mild winds from some westerly quarter * * * were largely in evidence. As regards temperature the contrast between the two months was therefore very striking.

"The general rainfall expressed as a percentage of the average was as follows: England and Wales, 155; Scotland, 130; Ireland, 156.

"In London (Camden Square) the month was unusually showery and mild. Rain fell on all but 5 days, and a rain spell lasted from the 13th to the 31st. Mean temperature, 42.7° or 3° above the average [and $3^{\circ} F.$ higher than November]."—*Symons's Meteorological Magazine*, Jan., 1920.

France.—Paris, December 23.—Unseasonably warm weather has prevailed throughout France recently, but severe windstorms have caused a number of wrecks in the English Channel, the Mediterranean, and the Atlantic. Great damage has been done in northern France, houses being demolished in the Lille district.—*N. Y. Evening Post*.

Troyes, December 26.—The Seine and the Aube are rising rapidly. The inhabitants of the Mathaux quarter have been obliged to evacuate their dwellings.—*N. Y. Tribune*.

Nancy, December 26.—The floods are subsiding as rapidly as they rose. The damage done by the waters is estimated at more than \$2,000,000. Most of the metal and other industrial plants ceased operations. Railroad communication is partly interrupted, large portions of the track north of the city having been washed away.—*N. Y. Tribune*.

¹ See note in *Nature* (London), Jan. 8, 1920, p. 475, which discusses the special meteorological features of the year.

Colmar, December 26.—The plain between the Rhine and the railroad from Mulhausen to Schlestadt is one vast sheet of water. The inhabitants of many villages in the valley have been driven from their homes. At St. Croix, a number of houses have been swept away and several persons injured.—*N. Y. Tribune*.

Switzerland.—Geneva, December 26.—Melting snow from the lower Alps has swollen the Rhine River to 12 feet above normal. Tramway service in Basel has been reduced one-half.

Heavy snows are continuing in eastern Switzerland, a fresh fall of 20 inches being reported from Davos and St. Moritz. Many trains are stalled.—*N. Y. Tribune*.

Germany.—Berlin, December 27.—Lowlands near Mannheim, where the Neckar River flows into the Rhine, and for many miles above and below that point, are inundated by the Rhine flood, the overflowing being the worst experienced since the record flood of 1896. Heavy snows which fell in November are melting under warm rains falling over the Black Mountains and have swelled all rivers in southern Germany, many railroad stations being under water.

Dams near Freiburg, controlling water for a number of cities, have broken and railroad transportation is stopped in many sections.

Paris, December 28.—Floods along the Rhine and streams flowing into it are higher than they have been for 38 years and great damage is being done by the inundation, according to a Mainz dispatch.—*N. Y. World*.

China.—Amoy, September 8.—A great typhoon swept over the southeast coast last Monday, resulting in the death of at least 3,000 persons, according to reports from Fu-Chow. The typhoon was accompanied by a tidal wave 28 feet high.—*N. Y. Globe*, Sept. 8, 1919.